

ABSTRACT

IP packets are received, identified, evaluated and processed at interfaces of a network node in a communications network, which comprises a number of network nodes and which transmits IP packets. An in-band IP signaling packet, which is received at an interface of the network node, is identified at the interface and is characterized by an entry in the protocol field of the header of the IP packet, a one-to-one value, which is assigned to the receiving interface and which differs from the values of the other interfaces is entered in a field of the IP header of the IP packet and the modified packet is sent to the control component.